



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPONSOR'S REBUTTAL TO FISCAL NOTE

House Bill Number: HB474

Date Prepared: 2/20/2015

Short Title: Require child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking prevention efforts

Sponsor: Representative Eck

Generally, why do you disagree with the fiscal note?

I disagree with this fiscal note for several reasons:

- *The fiscal note calls for \$100,000 for public service announcements. There is nothing in the bill that calls for PSAs.*
- *I disagree that the DOJ will need to purchase a new vehicle in order to fulfill the requirements of this bill. I know that the DOJ already owns a fleet of vehicles and I believe they can use one of those vehicles for any travel needs.*
- *I question the need for an additional \$4,000 in one-time-only funds for "startup costs". I don't know what that means.*
- *The estimate of annual travel related costs at over \$10,000 seems high to me.*
- *The maintenance costs for the vehicle can also be eliminated, because DOJ does not need to purchase a new vehicle in order to fulfill this bill.*

Furthermore, a representative from the DOJ recently testified before the House Judiciary Committee that they have unused funds leftover from last session which were to be used for updating the status of sexual offenders on the Sexual and Violent Offender Registry. It is my understanding that those funds have mostly been left unused. I would encourage the Appropriations committee to look at apportioning some of these funds to be used for child abuse prevention efforts. I also know that there are some other bills working their way through the system which provide for some aspects of sexual abuse prevention: specifically, HB 89, which was brought at the request of the Department of Justice, provides for the creation of a sex trafficking education special revenue account. Potentially that money which the DOJ intends to use to fulfill those education goals would dovetail with the policy goals of this bill.

In short, the purpose of HB 474 is to provide for a policy asking the State to commit efforts and resources toward preventing sexual crimes against children from happening in the first place.

Sponsor Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Eck", written over a horizontal line.